



Connecticut EMS Chiefs Association

P.O. Box 2018

New Britain, Connecticut 06050-2018

Date: 08-March-2022

To: The Public Employees and Labor Committee

From: Bruce Baxter, President

RE: RAISED BILL NO. 5356 – AN ACT CONCERNING PANDEMIC PAY FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS.

Good afternoon/evening:

Senator Kushner, Representative Porter, Senator Cabrera, Representative Sanchez, Members of the Public Employees and Labor Committee. My name is Bruce Baxter. I currently serve as the President of the CT EMS Chiefs Association (CTEMSCA) as well as the CEO of New Britain Emergency Medical Services. I have been involved in EMS for the past 50 years as a clinician, educator and leader.

CTEMSCA represents the Chief Officers of EMS organizations in the State whose primary mission is to provide 911 EMS response, patient care outside the hospital setting, and transportation to a medical facility. Members of our association are the primary EMS providers in more than 50% of the state's municipalities, and respond to 60% of all 911 EMS requests annually. Our association includes several thousand members/employees with the rank of Emergency Medical Responder, EMT, Advanced EMT and /or paramedic.

CTEMSCA SUPPORTS RAISED BILL NO. 5356-AN ACT CONCERNING PANDEMIC PAY FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS.

The Covid Pandemic brought local 9-1-1 Emergency Medical Services Organizations (ambulance services) into the forefront of the public's view as their response to this Covid 19 Pandemic was highlighted by both local and national print and TV media.

The State's Emergency Medical Services System (Ambulance Services) and its providers were designated by the CDC, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce as well as the Governors Executive Order 7H as "Essential Workers."

In Connecticut, Emergency Medical Responders, EMTs and Paramedics affiliated with the State's Licensed and Certified Ambulance Services, responded to the needs of their community whenever the call came in. We are pleased that they will be able to benefit from this pool of

recognition dollars as a small token of the State's appreciation for their dedication and service to the State.

We urge the State Employees and Labor Committee to support and approve this important legislation.

Should you require additional information, do not hesitate to contact me.